

Thank you for downloading the
Introduction to Homestead Science
sample pages.

A new take on teaching farming, gardening, food science, self-sufficiency, and other life skills!

This full year science curriculum is ideal for middle and high school students as an introductory homesteading course.

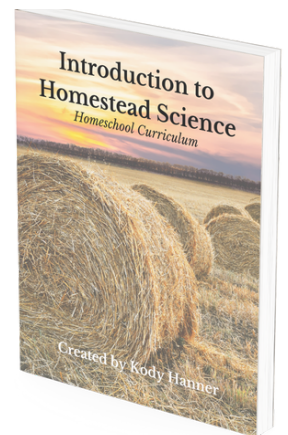
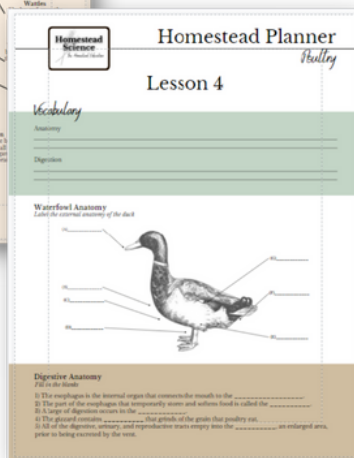
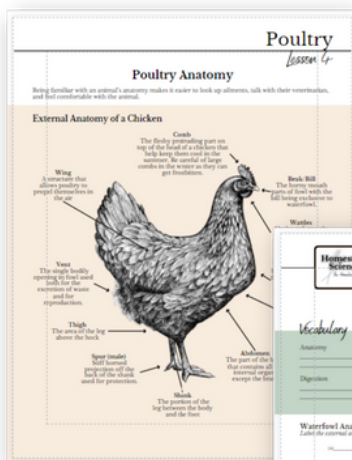
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Introduction to Homestead Science contains 18 interactive units teaching agriculture science, life skills, applied mathematics, and quality of character.

Units include:

- Building & Land
- Tractors & Small Engines
- Poultry
- Companion & Predator Animals
- Dairy & Fiber Animals
- Meat Animals
- Compost & Soil
- Insects, Bees, & Bugs
- Gardens
- Orchards & Vineyards
- Grains & Forage Crops
- Food Preservation
- Home Cooking
- Off-Grid Life
- Hunting, Fishing, & Trapping
- Foraging & Herbs
- First-Aid
- Homestead Accounting



Each unit includes 8 lessons that will span over two 4-day weeks. Each lesson has workbook activities and projects in the *Homestead Workbook Planner*. This curriculum also includes six homestead projects (no homestead needed) as well as tests and quizzes to reinforce learning.

Getting Familiar with Poultry

Lifecycle of a Hen

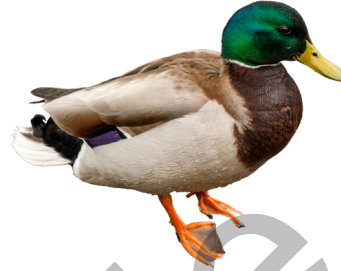
Hens begin to lay eggs between 18-22 weeks if they have 14-16 hours of light, proper nutrition, and management. Hens do not need a rooster to fertilize the eggs to lay, but unfertilized eggs are only useful for eating and will not hatch chicks.

Hens will lay an egg approximately every 24-26 hours as this is how long it takes from the time a yolk is released to be encased in the hard shell. Once she lays an egg, that will signal for another yolk to be released.

New hens should be added to a flock every two to three years as laying hens' egg production will eventually slow down. The addition of new hens will keep the total egg production up. Even though homestead chickens can live for six-eight years, once their egg production tapers off or stops at about four years, they can be butchered for meat.

If the eggs are fertilized by a rooster, they can be set on or incubated to hatch chicks. Eggs take an average of 21 days to hatch.

Males of various poultry: As with most females sharing a name, most male poultry are known as **roosters** or **cocks** with young roosters being known as **cockerels**. With some other types of fowls, male geese are **ganders**, male turkeys are **toms**, and male ducks are **drakes**.



Hatch: all poultry **hatch** their young, hatching is the process in which a chick comes out of the shell. A group of chicks that all hatch at the same time are known as a **hatch** and each individual chick is known as a **hatchling**.

Young Poultry: most young poultry are known as **chicks** or **hatchlings**. Some have different names though, young ducks are known as **ducklings**, young geese are known as **goslings**, and young turkeys are known as **poults**.



Quail Chicks



Ducklings

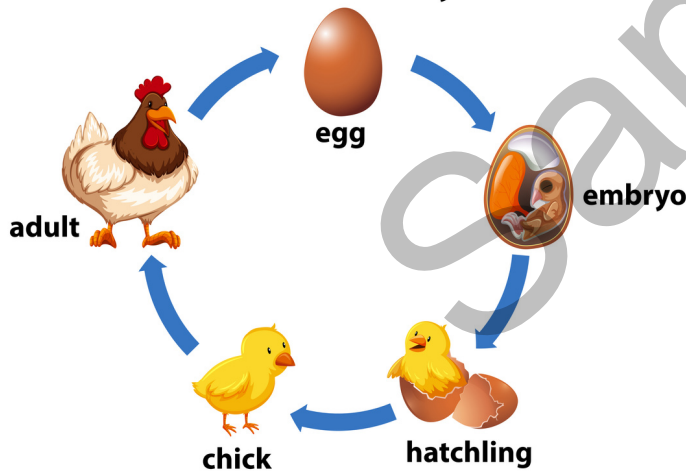


Goslings



Poults

Chicken Life Cycle



Poultry Terms

Even though each lesson will have poultry vocabulary, this lesson will lean heavily on the vocabulary associated with poultry and poultry management for familiarity in future lessons.

Females of various poultry: Most are known as **hens**. Young hens under a year age are known as **pullets**. In the case of ducks or geese, the female is simply known as duck or goose.



Purebred and crossbreeds: **Purebreds** are animals that are bred from parent of the same breed or variety. When animals are **crossbred** or **hybrid** that is due to their parents being of a different breed or variety. This type of breeding is often facilitated to obtain the best features of each breed. Such as a fast-growing bird that lays a high amount of eggs.

Poultry

Lesson 2

What to call meat chickens: when a chicken is bred specifically for meat production, they are called a **broiler** or fryer once they reach six to eight weeks of age whether, they are male or female. They are large enough to butcher at this point, however, if allowed to grow larger to the age of three to four months (4-6 pounds), they are called **roasters**.



Flock: A **flock** is a group of chickens or other fowl that live together. This is important for their socialization and safety.



Breeder: a **breeder** is a mature hen that is kept specifically for her fertilized eggs to be collected. Also, the homesteader or farmer that raises breeding chickens is also known as the breeder.

Cull: a **cull** or to cull is when a bird needs to be removed from a flock for a variety of management reasons, such as age, injury, or temperament to name a few. A cull will then be euthanized, butchered, sold, or moved to a different purpose on the homestead.

Egg: all poultry come from externally laid **eggs** with a hard shell that are then hatched.

Management: **management** of livestock refers to their feeding protocol, housing, amenities, medical care, and treatment. Management can easily affect an animal's growth, production, and reproductive abilities both positively and negatively.



Lesson 2

Answer Questions

- 1) At what age do chickens usually start laying eggs?

- 2) Explain the difference between a purebred and a cross bred.

- 3) Explain the difference between a broiler and a fryer when referring to meat chickens.

Vocabulary

Write definitions from the glossary in textbook.

Hen	Pullet	Rooster	Gander	Tom
Drake	Hatch	Chick	Duckling	Gosling
Poults	Purebred	Crossbred	Broiler	Roaster
Flock	Breeder	Cull	Eggs	Management

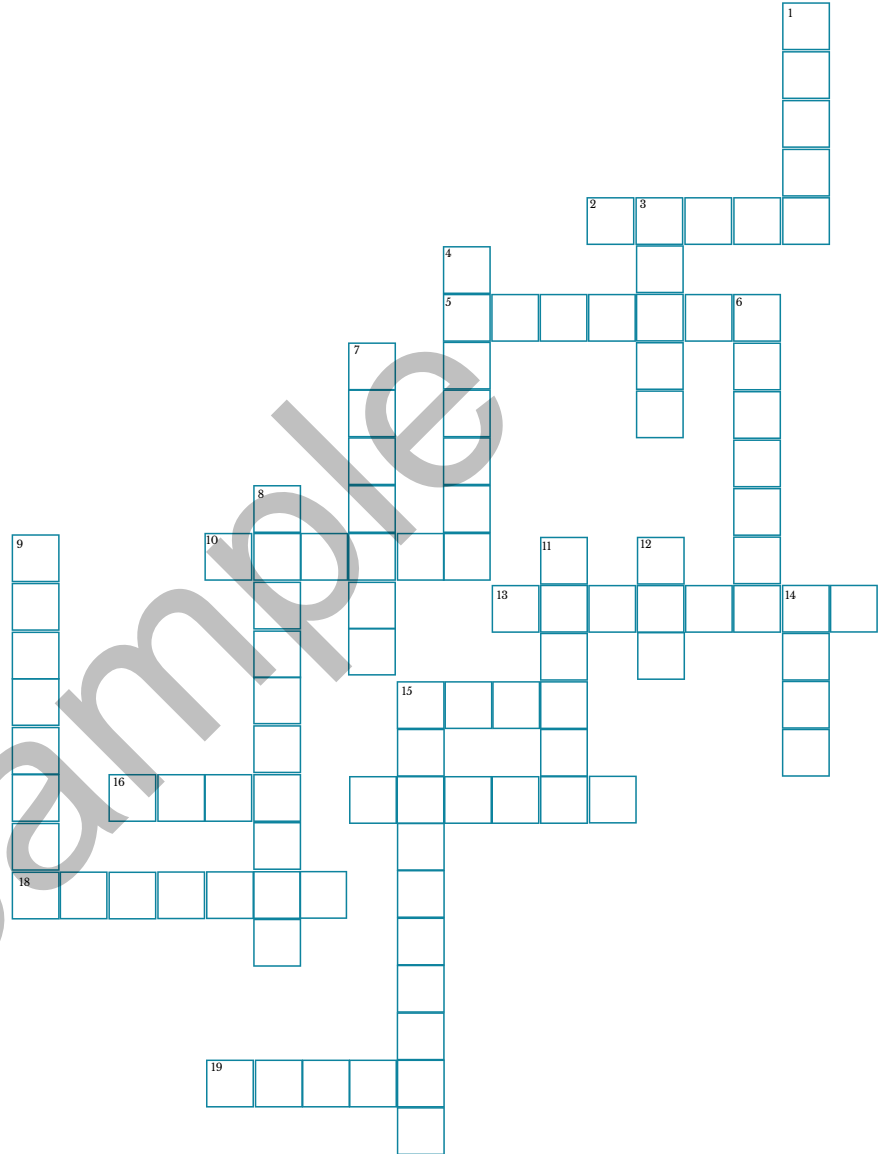
Lesson 2 Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle

Across:

- (2) A young bird of many species of poultry
- (5) A male or female chicken that was raised for the purpose of meat at the age of 4-6 months
- (10) A male goose
- (13) Organism bred from parents of the same breed or variety
- (15) Removing an animals from production as a management decision
- (16) A male turkey
- (17) A young goose
- (19) A male duck

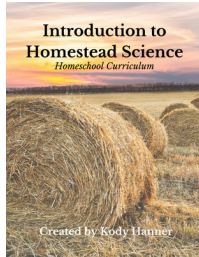
Down:

- (1) A group of poultry living together
- (3) The action of a chick coming out of an egg
- (4) A male or female chicken that was raised for the purpose of meat at the age of eight weeks
- (6) Male of many species of poultry
- (7) An animal raised for reproduction or the farmer that is raising the animal
- (8) The production or management of animals
- (9) A young duck
- (11) A female chicken less than one year old
- (12) Female of many species of poultry
- (14) The reproductive cell of a female
- (15) An organism produced by crossing two different breeds or varieties





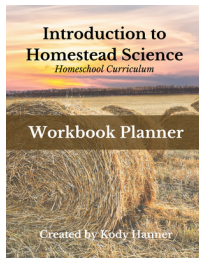
Homestead Science Curriculum



Textbook

Digital Download \$50.00

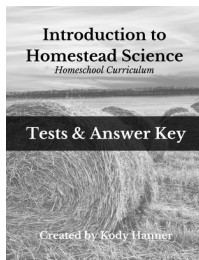
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